

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /070 W

-----063235 271214Z /44

R 261245Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6205

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4509

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, MR, MO

SUBJ: NEW MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR TO MAURITANIA

REF: A. NOUAKCHOTT 2046, B. NOUAKCHOTT 2008

1. REFLECTING THE GOM'S CONCERN WITH MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENTS, ON JULY 18 KING HASSAN NAMED A PERSONAL ADVISOR, AHMED SNOUSSI, (ALSO SPELLED SENNOUSI), AS AMBASSADOR TO MAURITANIA.

2. THE TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO, DESCRIBING SNOUSSI AS A "CLOSE ADVISOR" TO KING HASSAN, CHARACTERIZED THE NOMINATION AS MOROCCAN USE OF ITS "HEAVY ARTILLERY" FOR MAURITAINIA. SNOUSSI HIMSELF INDICATED THAT HIS APPOINTMENT REFLECTED GOM CONCERN WITH THE ORIENTATION OF THE NEW MAURITANIAN REGIME, CONFIDING TO AMBASSADOR JULY 18 THAT THE KING HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO "GO DOWN (TO NOUAKCHOTT) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THINGS ARE NOT VERY CLEAR THERE."

3. SNOUSSI'S SERVICE AS MOROCCO'S LAST AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA (1973-76) AND HIS 1976-78 STINT IN THE ROYAL

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CABINET PROVIDE EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS FOR HIS NEW ROLE IN MAURITANIA. HE HAS HAD A LONG CAREER IN GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. SNOUSSI, 49, STARTED HIS GOVERNMENT CAREER IN 1956 AFTER COMPLETING UNIVERSITY STUDIES IN PARIS. HE PARTICIPATED IN INDEPENDENCE NEGOTIATIONS AND THEN BECAME CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PRESS SECTION. IN THAT CAPACITY HE ORGANIZED NUMEROUS EXHIBITS ABROAD,

AND SERVED ON DELEGATIONS TO SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, INCLUDING UNESCO AND THE UN. IN 1957 HE ACCOMPANIED KING MOHAMMED V ON HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US, AND IN 1960 WAS THE KING'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGO AND LATER A MEMBER OF THE MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO THE LEOPOLDVILLE CONFERENCE ON CONGO PROBLEMS.

4. SNOUSSI WAS APPOINTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, TOURISM AND FINE ARTS IN JULY 1961. IN 1962 HE CHAIRED THE MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO UNESCO INFORMATION CONFERENCE AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE UN CONCILIATION MISSION TO THE CONGO. IN 1965 SNOUSSI WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA, AND IN 1967 HE BECAME MINISTER OF INFORMATION, A POSITION HE HELD UNTIL AUGUST OF 1971 WHEN HE WAS MADE MOROCCO'S AMBASSADOR TO TUNISIA. IN SEPTEMBER 1973 HE BECAME AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA.

5. SNOUSSI HAS A VITAL PERSONALITY AND DIRECT SENSE OF HUMOR. THESE QUALITIES HAVE WON HIM THE FRIENDSHIP OF KING HASSAN, WHO REPORTEDLY VERY MUCH ENJOYS HIM AND HIS STORYTELLING ABILITIES. ACCORDINGLY, SNOUSSI IS OFTEN IN THE COMPANY OF THE KING.

6. SNOUSSI HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL IN HIS  
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PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH AMERICANS. IN THE PAST SOME US OBSERVERS CONSIDERED SNOUSSI NOT PARTICULARLY WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD ASPECTS OF US POLICY, BUT NO EVIDENCE OF THIS HAS BEEN NOTED HERE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. SNOUSSI SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH AND ARABIC, GOOD ENGLISH AND SOME SPANISH.  
ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014